(xii) Audio-visual publicity campaigns to educate road users on how to make a safe crossing are conducted.

(xiii) Steps have been taken to prevent inflammable and explosive materials from being carried in passenger trains.

(xiv) Periodic Safety Audit of different divisions by interdisciplinary teams from zonal headquarters has been introduced.

(xv) Training facilities for drivers, guards and staff connected with train operation have been modernized including use of simulators for training of drivers.

(xvi) Refresher courses are regularly organized at specified intervals.

(xvii) Performance of the staff connected with train operations is being constantly monitored and those found deficient are sent for crash training.

(xviii) Periodical safety drives are conducted to inculcate safety consciousness among the staff.

Grant for Undertaking Broad work between Arasikere-Hassan-Mangalore

286. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Karnataka had requested for grant of Rs. 80 crores during the Financial year 1998-99 for undertaking Broad work between Arasikere-Hassan-Mangalore;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether the required amount has been released; and

(c) the likely date by which the project will be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The then Chief Minister of Karnataka had requested for allotment of Rs. 80 crores for early completion of this work. In view of acute constraint of resources for gauge conversion

projects, Rs. 20 crs. only could be provided to this project during 1998-99.

(c) Work on this project is already in progress. No firm target date of completion has yet been fixed.

C.A.G. Report on Import of High Power Diesel Engines

† 287. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK:
PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is Government's reaction on the report submitted by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India with regard to the decision pertaining to import of high power diesel engines and the cost incurred thereon;

(b) whose responsibility has been fixed by Government for the loss of crores of rupees due to import of said engines; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken by Government against the officers involved in the import deal on the basis of responsibility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) The reply as per prescribed procedure is being sent.

(b) Import of high horse power state-of-the-art diesel locomotives alongwith transfer of technology was made with the purpose of upgrading the existing technology of diesel locos on Indian Railways which is of 1950's vintage. The import has been made after detailed deliberations and at most competitive and reasonable prices.Thus, there has been no loss due to import of said engines.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

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†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.